OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The desion of Nuclear Reactors takes into account the ageing effects and, as such, there is no hazard during the designed life of the reactor. The available indigenous expertise and capability are adequate to meet the challenge posed by ageing effects without any compromise on safety. The problem of ageing of nuclear reactors has been studies extensively both internationally and by the Department of Atomic Energy and adequate measures are taken to ensure that safety is not compromised at any stage in the life of the Reactor. The measures taken include continous monitoring and inservice inspection of all safety related equipments using advanced techniques and their replacement and rehabilitation as appropriate based on such inspection. Such periodic mandatory inspections are also stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The First National Symposium on Ageing Management of Nuclear Facilities was organised during January 13—15, 1994 at Bombay, when various issues relating to ageing management were discussed. Research and Development work has also been undertaken to enhance our capability in this areas.

Delay in Commissioning of Kaiga Atomic Power Project

426. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissioning of the Rs. 730 crore Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka is being delayed because of a serious crisis in the cooling water supply;

(b) if so, what is the major hurdle in its way; and

(c) how long will it take to commission the Kaiga Atomic Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (d) The Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka, when commissioned would require cooling water to be drawn from the Kadra reservoir on Kali river presently under construction by the Karnataka Government. As the construction of the dam is a parallel activity, the matter has been taken up with the Government of Karnataka for expenditing the work on it so that the dam will start impounding water to suit the schedule of the Nuclear Power Station.

(c) The first unit of this Atomic Power Project is scheduled to achieve criticality by June 1996 and the second unit by December 1996.

Study of Seismic Character on Napp Site

427. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent earthquakes in Marathwada have established that the State of seismic predictability and study in our country was not proper; if so, whether Government feel the need to study, in more details, the scheme of the Narora Atomic Power Station in UP whose designs are claimed to be suited to the seismic characters of the site;

(b) whether the recent news reports about the great Himalayan fault or ridge which is supposed to separate the Peninsula from the Himalayan Tectonic plate were taken into consideration while designing the said power project;

(c) what are the names of the Seismic experts who were involved in the designing of the Narora Atomic Power Project and whether the seismic predictability potential of these experts has been established beyond doubt; and

(d) whether the bigger reactors which are envisaged at a later stage in Narora would also be seismically protected in the same design?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) In siting Nuclear Power